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Record

JOURNAL OF THE MISSISSIPPI BAPTIST CONVENTION

MBC to convene October 30 in Jackson

By William H. Perkins Jr.
Editor

The Mississippi Baptist Convention (MBC) will convene for its 166th annual meeting at 8:25 a.m. on October 30 at First Church, Jackson, and adjourn at 11:45 a.m. the following day. In between those times will be testimony, praise, Bible treasures, agency and institution reports, election of a new slate of convention officers, and the proposed adoption of a record-setting Mississippi Cooperative Program budget of \$30,522,692.

Clarence Cooper, chair of the MBC Order of Business committee and pastor of Emmanuel Church in Grenada, said special time has also been set aside on the meeting program to pray for the state of the nation and the world as the war against terrorism proceeds.

"At the same time the MBC will be carrying out our business and worship, we will have a dual focus. Not only will we be aware of what we are doing in our services, we will also be thinking of what is going on in our world and all that has happened since September 11.

"Because of the hour at hand, we will focus on God and his Kingdom's work, and also on our country and its many needs at this hour," Cooper said.

MBC President Kermit McGregor, pastor of First Church, Mendenhall, will preside over the two-day meeting. He is serving his second term as president and is not eligible for reelection.

Jeffrey Parker, pastor of Southside Church, Jackson, will deliver the convention sermon.

Richard Jackson, director of the Jackson Center in Brownwood, Texas, and former pastor of North Phoenix Church in Phoenix, Arizona, will present the popular Bible Treasure segments.

McGregor announced that he has appointed James Lewis, pastor of

Liberty Church, Pontotoc, to serve as chairman of the credentials committee at the convention. Other members of the committee appointed by McGregor include:

◆ Danny Prater, pastor of First Church, Inverness.

◆ Frank Thomas, pastor of Alta Woods Church, Jackson.

◆ Fred Womack, pastor of

Diamondhead Church, Diamondhead.

◆ Samuel Hamilton, pastor of First Church, Plantersville.

McGregor also appointed Jerry Sullivan, pastor of First Church, Magee, as chairman of the tellers committee for the convention. Serving with Sullivan will be:

◆ Jay Cook, pastor of Toomsaba Church, Toomsaba.

◆ Maxwell Price, pastor of First Church, Polkville, Morton.

◆ George Meadows, pastor of First Church, Itta Bena.

◆ Ken Gower, pastor of Harmony Church, Cruger.

◆ Walter Simmons, pastor of Siloam Church, West Point.

◆ Greg Potts, pastor of First Church, Vancleave.

◆ Trent Bilbo, pastor of Union Church, Union Church.

◆ Greg Thomas, pastor of Parkway Church, Houston.

◆ Gary Wayne Adams, pastor of Slayden Church, Lamar.

"The annual gathering of Mississippi Baptists in convention is a great experience. It is the time that we do business, but since it's the Lord's business, it can only be accomplished by looking to him — and that makes things different!" said Jim Futral, Mississippi Baptist Convention Board executive director-treasurer.

"Last year a man who was visiting the convention from out of state commented to me that our convention seemed to be a combination of revival, homecoming, and missionary commissioning service.

"If that be true, I can only say, 'Lord, come and meet with us again!'" Futral said.

Complete MBC annual meeting program can be found on page 10 of this issue and at www.mbc.org.



Accommodations available for MBC messengers

Camp Garaywa, the state Girls in Action campground in Clinton operated by the Mississippi Woman's Missionary Union, will be available for overnight accommodations for messengers to the 2001 annual meeting of the Mississippi Baptist Convention (MBC) October 30-31 at First Church, Jackson.

Patterson Place, Camp Garaywa's hotel-like facility for adult meetings, will be open on a first-come, first-served basis at the per night rates of \$40 for one person per room, \$35 per person for two people per room, \$30 per person for three people per room, and \$25 per person for four people per room.

Dorm-style rooms with inside bath and linens included are \$16 per person per night, and cabins with outside baths and no linens are \$10 per night.

Reservations must be made by October 24. Payment must be made in advance by check or cash, as the camp is not set up to take credit cards. Checks should be made payable to Camp Garaywa and mailed to P.O. Box 1278, Clinton, MS 39060.

To make reservations or for more information, contact the camp at (601) 924-7034.

A number of hotels and motels in Jackson are also offering special rates for MBC annual meeting attendees. All are

located just off Interstate 55, High Street exit 96B.

Shuttle service will be provided from the Coliseum parking area on Jefferson Street to the MBC annual meeting, from noon on October 30 through the close of the final session on October 31.

When making reservations, be sure to advise the hotel or motel that you will be attending the MBC annual meeting and ask for the special rate. All rates are plus tax.

Clarion Hotel
400 Greymont Ave.
single: \$59; double: \$69
(601) 969-2141

Hampton Inn
320 Greymont Ave.
single/double: \$69
(comp. breakfast)
(601) 352-1700

Holiday Inn Express
310 Greymont Ave.
two king-size beds: \$69.95
(comp. breakfast)
(601) 948-4466

Red Roof Inn Coliseum
700 Larson Street
two double beds: \$43.99
business king bed: \$43.99
(601) 969-5006

Quality Inn
400 Greymont Ave.
single: \$49; double \$59
(601) 969-2230

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Where was the ACLU?

For several decades now, groups like the American Civil Liberties Union (ACLU) have led the fight to banish all mention of religion from public life and limit any practice of faith to the cold confines of church buildings.

While other groups have indeed participated in the attempt to destroy religion in America — Madalyn Murray O'Hair comes quickly to mind — the ACLU has been so aggressive and passionate about the cause that they have come to symbolize the whole of this perverse movement.

If there's a penny of public money involved, the ACLU says, there will be no Christmas season nativity scene at the courthouse, city hall, local park, or other public facility.

So you want to post the Ten Commandments in your child's elementary school? Not a chance, according to the ACLU. That would be establishment of government-sanctioned religion — a constitutional no-no.

The same goes for prayers before football games and at graduations — and hats off to the brave young people who have openly defied this nonsense at great personal risk.

Students cannot even observe a vacuous "moment of silence" in many schools around the country.

So powerful has the group become in the minds of many that the mere threat of an ACLU lawsuit is enough to send skittish public officials searching for appeasement.

Every place that faith makes an appearance in the public life of America, you can be sure the ACLU will be there to paint a target on it. Some of their threats border on the ridiculous, but that doesn't seem to slow them down in their zeal to bury religion in America.

Which makes the current behavior of the ACLU and its ilk so mystifying. Since the atrocities — war crimes, actually — of

September 11 in New York City, Washington, D.C., and Pennsylvania, there have been thousands of public religious services and observances of days of prayer for both the victims of the terrorist attacks and for the future of America.

Where was the ACLU?

Right across the street from the Baptist Building in downtown Jackson, hundreds of Mississippians came to the south steps of the New Capitol for a prayer service. Bibles and American flags were in abundance, and everyone joined the ministers who openly prayed that day on public property.

Where was the ACLU?

In schools and government buildings and even in our great political deliberative bodies, prayers were offered and moments of silence were observed.

Where was the ACLU?

The President of the United States went before a joint session of the U.S. Congress, and forthrightly invoked the name of Almighty God to the thunderous applause of almost everyone present.

Where was the ACLU?

It seems that these civil liberties warriors are missing in action. Perhaps now they understand the absurdity of so many of their ill-reasoned positions on the practice of faith in America.

Perhaps now they understand that more than 40 years of lawsuits and threats and indoctrination have failed to marginalize God in the hearts and minds of the American people.

"BEING A CHRISTIAN IN THIS PLACE IS LIKE BEING A PARENT TO A BROOD OF JUVENILE DELINQUENTS!"



Perhaps now they realize all their time and effort went for naught when the people of the United States turned *en masse* to religion in their time of greatest need.

Perhaps now they understand that their whole program is ultimately destined for the ash heap of history.

Where was the ACLU? It's hard to say, but maybe they should just stay there.

GUEST OPINION:

Support your bivo pastor

By Matt Buckles, director
Church Adm./Pastoral Ministries, MBCB

love are being shown to the minister.

Those who do not want to know or think they already know, do not ask or listen. Many leaders need to stop telling and start asking and listening.

A recent quarrel occurred over whether a church should secure a pager for the pastor. The pastor did not get the pager, but stated that the leading opponent had a cellular phone.

The pastor rightly observed that the issues were control and a failure to ask the right questions for ministry's sake. Ask your minister the right questions.

Listen to

what he has to say.

The answers may surprise you, but will help him. You will be glad you asked.

◆ Allow your minister to take care of himself and his family. Our nation's health care crisis affects churches.

First, the truly full-time church usually provides adequate ministerial income and benefits. Next, most bivo ministers can provide for their families through dual career and supplemental opportunities.

Sadly, a third type is the "so-called, but not full-time" church which demands that their minister(s) be full-time, but can or will

not provide an adequate living wage or sufficient benefits.

This third type church is prevalent in our state. They should allow their ministers to supplement income and gain needed benefits.

For example, public school bus drivers receive medical insurance and can cover their family at a reasonable cost. The few hours of work and increased community contacts help the pastor and church.

Pride and control in some church leaders prohibit this permission to supplement income and gain benefits.

I can assure these leaders that the kingdom of God will not fall and their local church will not close, if their minister(s) supplements his income or secures benefits such as medical insurance and retirement.

Churches should appreciate their ministers. Deacons and other leaders have this responsibility.

We should get to know these God-called leaders. We also should be sensitive to their financial plight and help where we can, either by providing more financial support or supplemental income, and/or by permitting them to work for benefits.

In taking these actions, God will be glorified, his servants loved, and his church edified.



Bivocational Ministry

A) As Ancient as the
Old Testament

B) As Biblical as the
New Testament

C) As Current as the
21st Century

NAMB trustees hear disaster relief report

ALPHARETTA, Ga. (BP) — North American Mission Board (NAMB) trustees on Oct. 3 heard an update on disaster relief operations in New York and Washington and approved guidelines for NAMB's cooperation with new state conventions.

Trustees also learned that 17 new missionaries had been approved or appointed the previous day by the missionary personnel subcommittee, and that 31 chaplains had been endorsed for the first time by the chaplains committee.

NAMB President Robert E. "Bob" Reccord shared with trustees about his recent visit to ground zero of the terrorist attacks in New York, where he witnessed Southern Baptists volunteers working long hours preparing food, ministering, and sharing their faith.

As of that morning, he said, Southern Baptists had prepared more than 260,000 hot meals.

"I just want to remind you that Southern Baptists are one of the largest disaster relief forces in the world," Reccord said, adding that there are currently more than 21,000 trained volunteers staffing 300 Southern Baptist Disaster Relief units operating through state conventions.

The guidelines for NAMB's cooperation with new Baptist state conventions adopted by trustees provide a structure for dealing with new state conventions within geographic boundaries of existing conventions, said Harry Lewis, director of NAMB's strategy coordination team.

NAMB typically works with state conventions to develop "cooperative agreements" for funding missionaries and other mission efforts.



SURVEYING RELIEF EFFORT — Kentucky Baptist disaster relief volunteer Mike Klein of Lexington (left) discusses the New York City relief effort with North American Mission Board president Bob Reccord. A disaster relief team from Kentucky was stationed under the Brooklyn Bridge in New York City. (BP photo by Jim Burton)

A task force of trustees, state convention leaders, and NAMB staff developed the guidelines.

Lewis said they updated existing guidelines for new fellowships and the most recent new state conventions.

"We simply were trying to update them... and put them into a document that would be current," he said.

The guidelines do not apply to NAMB's relationships with existing state conventions or pre-convention fellowships.

Lewis stressed that the guidelines affect only NAMB's position in partnering with new state conventions, not their legitimacy.

"We know the autonomy of their position," he said. "They can choose to become a fellowship or a convention, but the guidelines basically specify the conditions in which we would determine whether we form a formal agreement with them."

General provisions of the guidelines include that conventions should be representative of all people groups, defined by a geographical boundary, "compatible with current policies of NAMB and doctrinal positions of the Southern Baptist Convention (SBC)" and singularly aligned with the SBC.

Also, "all jointly funded staff, missionaries and endorsed chaplains must conform with and agree to minister consistent with and not contrary to" the current Baptist Faith and Message statement.

Consideration also is given to whether the new convention will likely result in an increase in missions and evangelism over what would have occurred in the area had the new convention remained a part of the existing entity.

The full text of the guidelines is available via the Internet at www.namb.net/trusteemeeting.

Trustees also responded to five motions referred from the SBC annual meeting and adopted a \$128 million bud-

get for 2002, an increase of 1.72% over the current year's spending plan.

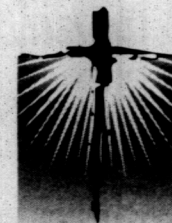
The five motions considered by trustees were made by individuals during the SBC annual meeting in June in New Orleans. In responses to the motions, the board:

- Maintained its current policy on appointment of missionaries who have experienced divorce. The referred motion asked NAMB to consider changes that included allowing missionaries who "have been divorced for biblical reasons" to serve as church planters and senior pastors.

- Described its broad range of ministries directed toward bivocational ministers in response to a motion that a committee be nominated to study such efforts.

- Noted a set of suggested guidelines for Southern Baptist ministries considering use of federal funding for faith-based initiatives in response to a motion requesting formation of a committee to help develop such guidelines for local churches.

- Noted the entity will either produce or make available "tools for ministering to the families of homosexuals" by the 2003 SBC annual meeting in response to a motion requesting such resources.



MISSISSIPPI
BAPTISTS

**THE
SECOND
FRONT PAGE**

Record

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- Noted that NAMB currently offers Challengers, a mission education organization for teenage boys, in response to a motion that NAMB offer a program similar to the Acteens organization for girls sponsored by Woman's Missionary Union.

NAMB's response to the motions referred from the SBC are available in their entirety at www.namb.net/trusteemeeting.

Looking back

10 years ago

Baylor University president Herbert Reynolds charges Joel Gregory, pastor of First Church, Dallas, with exploiting his credentials as a "bona fide fundamentalist" after Gregory criticizes Reynolds and Baylor's plan to elect most of its regents on its own.

20 years ago

More than 900 requests for new missionaries have been received in the offices of the Southern Baptist Foreign Mission Board in Richmond, Va., calling for 1,700 persons to commit themselves to overseas missions in the effort to win the world to Christ.

50 years ago

The premier showing of the film *Mr. Texas* in Fort Worth will include the personal appearance of Billy Graham and his crusade team members along with others in the film. *Mr. Texas* has been called "the first Christian western."

Looking for a new address?

1. Prayer of Jabez, Bruce Wilkinson (Baker Book House Co.)

2. Secrets of the Vine, Bruce Wilkinson (Baker Book House Co.)

3. Prayer of Jabez, Bruce Wilkinson (Baker Book House Co.)

4. Prayer of Jabez for Women, Bruce Wilkinson (Baker Book House Co.)

5. Prayer of Jabez Devotional, Bruce Wilkinson (Baker Book House Co.)

6. Praying God's Word, Beth Moore (Baker Book House Co.)

7. To Live in Christ, Beth Moore (Baker Book House Co.)

8. Spiritual Leadership, Henry & Susan Blackaby (Baker Book House Co.)

9. Praying from My Heart, Beth Moore (Baker Book House Co.)

10. If You Want to Walk on Water, Rick Warren (Zondervan)

OKC veteran chaplains helping out NYC

NEW YORK CITY (BP) — Oklahoma City police chaplain Jack Poe and Baptist General Convention of Oklahoma chaplaincy specialist Leslie Sias helped lead a solemn memorial service Sept. 20 to the fallen police officers, firefighters, and Port Authority officers who lost their lives trying to save others when the World Trade Center was attacked by terrorists Sept. 11.

The service, which was attended by thousands of the fallen heroes' comrades, was held near the city's memorial to its police officers who have lost their lives in the line of duty.

Twenty-three police officers, 37 Port Authority officers, and more than 330 firefighters lost their lives in the tragedy, along with one New Jersey firefighter, an FBI agent, a Secret Service agent, and two emergency medical techs.

Photographs of the fallen New York City officers were displayed in large frames at the site, along with a framed list of the firefighters who made the ultimate sacrifice.

Poe, who led chaplaincy efforts following the April 19, 1995, bombing of the Alfred P. Murrah Federal Building in Oklahoma City, was asked to speak to those in attendance. Hastily scribbling a few notes and drawing upon his memories of that fateful spring day in his hometown, he delivered the following comments:

"On Sept. 11, your city took center stage as the world witnessed an act of war launched against this great nation.



AT GROUND ZERO — Oklahoma Baptist chaplains (from left) Leslie Sias, Sam Porter, and Jack Poe visit with a New York City firefighter near the site of the World Trade Center towers collapse. (BP photo by Bob Nigh)

"We are standing on the memorial site that contains the names of officers of the New York City Police Department who have lost their lives in the line of duty.

"I have watched closely, and listened carefully, as many officers have come and touched a special name on this granite wall. Each officer recalls a special memory they hold close to their heart of that special person.

"Memory is good, for without memory there is no healing.

"Behind us in the harbor stands the Statue of Liberty. Her torch has never shone as bright as it has these past days, as she

stands guard over this rescue and recovery operation.

"She has a message for all who think our nation is weak and divided. We are not. From coast to coast, and from border to border, the American people stand shoulder to shoulder united and strong, with a steadfast resolve to see you through.

"This was not just an attack on a city or a nation. It was an assault on humanity. The human spirit, though blindsided, did not break.

"What was intended to bring us down has instead awakened a sleeping giant. In 1 John 4:4, we are reminded that greater is the spirit of God in us than the evil that is in the world.

"You could have given up, but that was never a choice. Without regard to their own personal safety, your peers in the police and fire services responded to move others from harm's way.

"The cost was high, and we are gathered here now to honor them. No greater love has a man than that he lay down his life for a friend (John 15:13).

"We in Oklahoma City know firsthand your pain and loss. Not only are our prayers and thoughts with you, but also the thoughts and prayers of all Americans. New York City is now not just a name on a map. It is a place in the hearts of the American people.

"May God bless our fallen heroes. May God bless America!"

Committee on Committees announced

Mississippi Baptist Convention (MBC) President Kermit McGregor has appointed William R. Lewman, pastor of First Church, Okolona, to serve as chairman of the convention's Committee on Committees for 2001-02. Appointed by McGregor to serve on the committee with Lewman are:

- Joe Young, pastor of Calvary Chapel, Charleston.
- Hueston Adkins, missions director for Jasper Association, Bay Springs.
- John Temple, pastor of First Church, Madison.
- Bill Hurt, pastor of First Church, Natchez.

According to the Bylaws (Article VII) of the MBC Constitution, the Committee on Committees before the last day of each MBC annual meeting will nominate members to serve on the Committee on the Order of Business; The Baptist Record Advisory Committee; the Committee on the Constitution and Bylaws; and the Committee on Nominations (Section One).

The Bylaws also stipulate that the Committee on Committees by the first session of each MBC annual meeting will nominate members of the Committee on Resolutions and the Committee on Time, Place, and Preacher (Section Four).

The Committee on Committees will serve from October 31 through the 2002 MBC annual meeting.

CUCKOO CLOCK

I can remember, as a kid, wishing that we had a cuckoo clock. We never had one, but occasionally I would see one in someone else's home and was fascinated with the sound of the cuckoo and the sight of the little bird jumping out from his nesting area.

Then one day about 15 years ago, I happened to see a cuckoo clock that the storeowners were trying to get rid of at a reduced price, and I bought it. I hung it up in my office at church and at first I was thrilled when every hour and half-hour came, for out popped the little bird and I got to hear, once again — "cuckoo, cuckoo." I enjoyed it for a while, but it soon became a nuisance!

Now, I never quite got in the condition of the man you may have heard about who had always wanted to own a cuckoo clock, so when he became extremely wealthy he decided he would buy 60 cuckoo clocks!

He went about setting them all at different times so that every minute, of every hour, the cuckoo clocks were going off. It didn't take him but a few days before he was on the verge of becoming cuckoo!

While I was not that bad, my one little cuckoo bird did seem



Directions

Jim Futral, executive director-treasurer
Mississippi Baptist Convention Board

to chirp a little too often. Actually, there were two big problems with the cuckoo clock in my office.

The first problem was that it was loud and seemed to announce the cuckoo at the most inappropriate moment. I would be visiting with someone in my office, or talking on the phone, and then, jumping into the conversation with both feet, was the cuckoo bird.

I can not tell you how many times people would ask, "What in the world was that?" It just seemed like most of the time that the cuckoo bird showed up, it was always disruptive.

The second problem was that the clock had to be wound every day. Actually, it didn't have a key, or a spring, or a winding mechanism, but the weights had to be pulled every day. It would work for a day and then it would run out of juice. If you missed one day pulling the

chains — my clock quit!

This actually was the larger of the two problems, for I had to remember to pull the chain on the clock every day. If I was going to be out for a day, or if I happened not to be at the office on a Saturday, I had to either remember to stop the clock before I left or restart the clock when I returned.

In time, I got tired of being interrupted by the cuckoos and also got fed up with having to maintain the bird every day, so I stopped the clock and from that point it just hung on the wall like a decoration piece.

Have you ever run into any Christians like that? Though we may not want to admit it, and even on our best days, we may at times see a cuckoo Christian in the mirror. Like that bird, we tend to make a lot of disruptions in life. Also, like him, we may be high-maintenance and in constant need of winding,

stroking, feeding, burping, and praising. Then if all of that care doesn't come our way, we may become a decoration piece which at best gets the time right about twice a day.

There is one thing that I want you, please, to understand, and that is that my cuckoo clock is not useless. Although it no longer hangs in my office, it does hang on a wall in my home.

I still do not wind it and it is still just a decoration piece, but it has found its highest purpose.

These days, any time one of my grandkids is over at the house, we make our way to the cuckoo clock. I wind the clock up, hold up one of the grandkids, and let them turn the big hand around, straight up or straight down, and together we enjoy the surprise of the cuckoo bird's appearance and the cuckoo bird's song — "cuckoo, cuckoo."

All along, I thought the purpose was for the cuckoo clock to keep time for me, but what I have discovered is that its higher purpose is to bless my grandkids and me.

I'm convinced that a lot of us who are Christians would be happier and would bless a lot more folks if we could just find our place!

USA Today ad prompts calls from readers

ALPHARETTA, Ga. (BP) — At least six individuals made immediate professions of faith after responding to a full-page newspaper ad placed by Southern Baptists in USA Today on Sept. 27.

Nearly 200 callers responded to the Evangelism Response Center number listed in the ad through Sept. 30.

Leaders say the true impact of the advertisement cannot be measured adequately, however, because of the thousands of individuals who likely read the ad but responded in ways other than a telephone call.

"By delivering a simple message, 'There is HOPE,' we said to the nation that Jesus Christ is the only true answer to our hopelessness; a truth that often finds open hearts when people are confronted with times of devastation and despair," said Morris Chapman, president of the Southern Baptist Convention Executive Committee. "Also, we let people know that Southern Baptists really care about the needs of others."

The advertisement was sponsored jointly by the Executive Committee, the North American Mission Board (NAMB), and LifeWay Christian Resources as a response to the Sept. 11 terrorist attacks in New York City and Washington, D.C.

"Jimmy Draper and Morris Chapman and the entities they lead were a joy to work with and shared the vision of Southern Baptists saying a word of hope to our nation at this time of crisis," said Robert E. "Bob" Reccord, president of NAMB. "This was partnership at its best."

"While we will never know the full impact of the ad, I'm confident God has

used it to touch lives," said LifeWay President James T. Draper Jr.

"Along with the lives lost and the destruction at the World Trade Towers and the Pentagon, hope was a casualty on Sept. 11. This is a time for Christians to use every means to share the only true hope that can make a difference for eternity," he said.

The words "There is Hope" in large type expressed the ad's primary theme. Below, under the heading "Thirteen days ago ...," was a quote from evangelist Billy Graham delivered during the Sept. 14 National Day of Prayer and Remembrance Service at the National Cathedral in Washington.

"Yes, there is hope," the quote read. "There is hope for the present because I believe the stage has already been set for a new spirit in our nation."

"There is also hope for the future because of God's promises. As a Christian, I have hope not just for this life, but for heaven and the life to come."

The heading "2000 years ago..." was then followed by Christ's statement from John 14:1: "Do not let your hearts be troubled, trust in God. Trust also in me."

Readers were invited to "Discover how you can have lasting hope in uncertain times" by calling a toll-free number routed to hundreds of Evangelism Response Center volunteers around the country.

In Fort Worth, Texas, volunteer Dena Whitehurst said she had been struggling with the first anniversary of her father's death Sept. 27, but she still decided to log on from her home as a "telephone encourager" for five hours that evening.

She wound up talking with three individuals, two of whom eventually prayed with her to make Jesus Christ Lord of their lives.

"It's interesting how even though your own heart is breaking, God can still use you," said Whitehurst, who works as an administrative secretary with the NAMB broadcast communications group.

All of the individuals were responding directly to the message of hope the ad offered, she said.

"Obviously there's a lot of hopelessness and fear right now just overall," Whitehurst said, "and they seemed to want to know more about this hope in troubled times. They all talked about that."

In Nashville, about 90 LifeWay employees participated in a call center staffed from 6 a.m. to 10 p.m. on Sept. 27-28. Not all of the calls they received were directly in response to the USA Today ad, but employees were able to participate in the Evangelism Response Center for the first time.

Ginger Welch of LifeWay's logistics department said, "It was amazing the topics brought up in my training class that helped me to answer their questions," she said.

"Everything I learned in class Tuesday was preparation for Tuesday night. It changed everything," she said.



COUNSELING CALL — Jake Judd, manager in the logistics department at LifeWay Christian Resources in Nashville, takes a call Thursday morning while manning the phone bank in the Evangelism Response Center after Southern Baptists' USA today ad was published. (Photo by Morris Abernathy)

There is HOPE

THIRTEEN DAYS AGO...

"Yes, there is hope. There is hope for the present because I believe the stage has already been set for a new spirit in our nation. There is also hope for the future because of God's promises. As a Christian, I have hope not just for this life, but for heaven and the life to come."

—Billy Graham
National Day of Prayer and Remembrance
National Cathedral, Washington, D.C.
September 14, 2001

2000 YEARS AGO...

"Do not let your hearts be troubled, trust in God. Trust also in me."

—Jesus Christ
John 14:1

Discover how you can have lasting hope in uncertain times by calling
1-888-537-8720.

A message from Southern Baptists.

To support disaster relief efforts go to www.namb.net
To locate a local church go to www.sbc.net

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USA Today ad

Tutor's gift of Scripture draws Muslim to Christ

ALPHARETTA, Ga. (BP) — Afshin Ziafat knows firsthand how even the most gentle exposure to Christianity early in life can bear fruit. In 1980, when he and other Iranian-Americans were experiencing persecution because of the Iran hostage crisis, a Christian tutor gave the young Muslim boy a New Testament.

"She said, 'Afshin, you won't understand this book, but I want you to hold on to it and read it later in your life.'"

Ziafat rediscovered that book as a senior in high school and eventually made a life-altering decision to follow Christ. Now a college evangelism associate for the North American Mission Board (NAMB), Ziafat shared his testimony with NAMB trustees during the board's Oct. 3 meeting in Alpharetta, Ga.

As Muslims around the world are dealing with the repercussions of recent terrorist acts, he said, the time may be right for God to reach others like himself.

"I'm so glad that there was a second-grade teacher who loved me enough, in the midst of hate, to give me a Bible and lead me to Christ," he said.

After having grown up in a devout

Muslim home, Ziafat said he became curious in high school about Christianity. After some searching he found the New Testament in his closet.

"I opened it up to the first book of the New Testament, Matthew, and I read the whole book in one sitting. God just developed a hunger in my heart to keep reading," Ziafat said.

He later accepted Christ during a Jay Strack evangelistic campaign.

Like many other former Muslims, however, his decision bore huge consequences.

His father, a prominent leader in the local Muslim community, finally discovered the decisions Afshin had been hiding.

"He said, 'If you are going to be a Christian, you cannot be my son,'" Ziafat said, "and it hit me like a ton of bricks, because here's a God I've only known a year and a half and here's my dad, my hero."

"I want you to know that I was ready to throw up my hands and say, 'Forget it. I'm a Muslim.'"

Ziafat surprised himself by telling his father that if forced to choose between his earthly father and his heavenly Father, he would choose Jesus.



Afshin Ziafat

It was only later that night that God led him to Matthew 10, where Jesus says, "Whoever acknowledges me before men, I will acknowledge him before my Father in heaven. But whoever disowns me before men I will disown him before my father in heaven."

From that point, Ziafat said God started doing "amazing things" in his life, including providing a roommate who also was a former Muslim, tuition support for seminary, and an opportunity to develop a nationwide speaking ministry while on the staff of Prestonwood Church in Dallas.

Even the relationship with his father, he said, improved.

"So I just want to encourage you that we have a God who is faithful, even in the midst of persecution," Ziafat said, adding that he remains confident that God can draw other Muslims to himself as well.

"I just know that there are many Muslims who live their life in fear of God — not the holy fear we read about in our Bible, but the fear that God will condemn them if they don't do enough good deeds," Ziafat said.

"As Christian leaders we must remember to tell our people that we have the greatest power at our disposal, and that's the love of Jesus Christ," he said.

NAMES IN THE NEWS

Cancer finally claims life of missionary

KEARNEY, Mo. (BP) — Charles Beaty, the missionary who inspired Southern Baptists by refusing to let cancer thwart his Christian witness, died in his sleep Oct. 2. He was 34.

Diagnosed with a terminal lung cancer in 1998, Beaty and his wife, Christy, decided to spend whatever time he had left in an all-out campaign to mobilize Southern Baptists to bring a lost world to Christ.

Instead of spending his final months of life in the United States, the Beatys returned to their mission field in northern Africa this past February. They visited old friends and made new ones, encouraging them to realize that no one has any time to waste when it comes to honoring God with their lives.

Back in the United States, Beaty refused to sit and wait for the cancer to take him. He busied himself with speaking and writing opportunities and enrolled for a seminary class. He established a web site, www.obeytherightthirst.org, hosted by First Church in Raytown, Mo.

Beaty lived to see the July 10 birth of their fourth child, Abigail Clara. The couple has three other children, Amanda, 9, Alex, 4, and Ashleigh, 19 months.



Bracey, Murphy, B. Rushing, C. Rushing



Central Church, Brookhaven, held a deacon ordination service on Aug. 26. Pictured (from left) are Gary Myers; Ken Powell; Frank Rice, pastor; and William Kimble.

REVIVAL DATES

First, Kosciusko: Oct. 14-17; Sunday, 11 a.m. and 7 p.m.; Mon.-Wed., 12:20 p.m. and 7 p.m.; Larry McFadden, Orlando, Fla., evangelist/musician; Barry C. Corbett, pastor.

Brewer, Richton: Oct. 14-19; Sunday, homecoming, 11 a.m.; noon meal; revival, Mon.-Fri., 7 p.m.; Walter Mixon, Greene County, evangelist; Bill Ricks, Greene County, music; Ken Ball, pastor.

Rocky Point, Carthage: Oct. 14-19; Don Taylor, Conehatta; Natalie Duncan, Lake, music; Marshall Lum, pastor.

Reed's Chapel, Stewart: Oct. 14-17; Sunday, 6 p.m.; Mon.-Wed., 7 p.m.; Jack Inmon, evangelist; Jason Green, music; Shannon Stafford, interim pastor.

Military, Sumrall: Oct. 20-24; Saturday, meal with worship service to follow at 7 p.m.; Sunday, regular services; Mon.-Wed., 7 p.m.; Jerry Doggett, evangelist; Charlie Case, music.

Victory, Mathiston: Oct. 22-26; 7 p.m. nightly; Gary Permenter, evangelist; Steve & Becky Carver, music; Don Parish, pastor.

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Jimmy Bracey and Charles Rushing were ordained as deacons of Salem Church, Tylertown, in a special service

June 3. Pictured (from left) are Bracey; Billy Murphy, former pastor; Bradley Rushing, pastor; and Charles Rushing.



Freeny Church, Carthage, hosted a Johnny Eubanks Day on Aug. 26 to honor its minister of music for 20 years of service. He was presented a plaque, book of letters, and a trip to Maggie Valley, N. C. A reception was held in the afternoon to honor Eubanks and his wife Susan. Pictured are (from left) John Adams, pastor; J. Eubanks; and S. Eubanks.

Evangelism Bible Conference 2001

November 7-9 ♦ 6 p.m.

First Baptist Church ♦ Ripley, Miss.

EVANGELISTS INCLUDE:

James E. Messer, Sr., Theodore, Ala.

Roy Fish, Fort Worth, Tex.

Jim McNeil, St. Louis, Mo.

Jimmy Jackson, Huntsville, Ala.

Ted Traylor, Pensacola, Fla.

Junior Hill, Hartselle, Ala.

Harold Hunter, Jacksonville, Fla.

John Sullivan, Jacksonville, Fla.

Bob Pitman, Memphis, Tenn.

MUSIC EVANGELISTS

Phil Willis, Baton Rouge, La.,

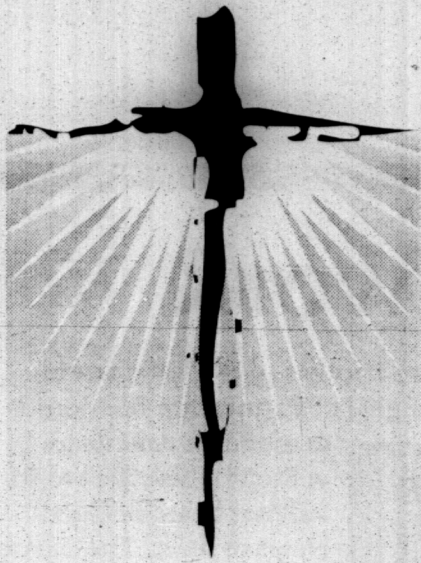
Gary Miller, Jacksonville, Fla., and others

Ladies' Luncheon Meeting
Thursday at Noon featuring
Joani Tabor, Christian singer and speaker

Mens' Luncheon Meeting
Friday at Noon featuring
Albert Wilkerson, pastor, FBC Ripley, Miss.

For more information call
(662) 837-8126 or (662) 837-8127.

October 31 - November 2 ♦ 6 p.m.
Cypress Shores Baptist Church ♦ Mobile, Ala.
Noon luncheon on Thursday for all
pastors, staff, and evangelists.
For more information call (251) 661-9631.



MISSISSIPPI BAPTIST

Partnership Missions

FALL 2001



VOL. II, NO. 3

♦ PARTNERSHIP MISSIONS DEPARTMENT ♦ P.O. Box 530, JACKSON, MS 39205-0530 ♦ PHONE (601) 292-3398 ♦ FAX (601) 292-3390 ♦ E-MAIL KRHODES@MBCB.ORG

Haitian Baptist church built by hand

By Tim Nicholas, staff writer
MBCB Communication Services

PURPOSE:
TO PROVIDE AN
OPPORTUNITY FOR
VOLUNTEERS
TO USE THEIR SKILLS
TO WITNESS FOR CHRIST
THROUGH MISSION
PARTNERSHIPS.

The sand and rock that went into making concrete for a church building in Haiti was hauled up the mountain in buckets on the heads of local church women.

Haitian men brought in lumber, carrying it by hand for an hour.

This kind of determination, coupled with the willingness of Baptist volunteers from Mississippi and Maryland, helped

get the church built and gather in 150 new Christians. All of this took place in the remote village of Despas, on the western side of Haiti, West Indies.

The work was a part of a mission trip by Mississippi and Maryland Baptists to build a church building for the Calvary Haitian Baptist Church there, according to Brent Parker, pastor of Goodwater Church, Magee.



During the trip, the group raised the walls of the church, held a revival that resulted in 70 professions of faith, and saw 80 children profess Christ during the day camp.

The remote village — a 13-hour trip from Haiti's capital, Port au Prince — had no electricity except for the generator purchased by



The site for Calvary Haitian Baptist Church, Despas, Haiti, is made ready for the laying of concrete blocks.

the mission team.

Tommy Swarts took his electric

skill saw and cut the hauled-in lumber's rough edges for three days from sunup to sundown. He wore out three carborundum blades.

One unscheduled project included repairing a woman's cook kitchen that had collapsed. During the revival services, the 70-year-old woman made a profession of faith in Jesus.

"My trip to Haiti really confirmed for me that God is alive and well and at work to redeem a lost world," said Barker.

"He's got his people in remote places who love the Lord and they are actively sharing their faith," he said.



the local people build the Despas church, hold revival services, and lead a children's day camp.

The Despas church is named for the Maryland church whose pastor, Jean St-Ulme, is a native of Despas. After an 18-year exile, he returned to Haiti to begin the church in his hometown in 1989. Finally, the church is getting its own building.

St-Ulme took 14 volunteers from Silver Spring and Barker took Keith Moore and Tommy Swarts from Goodwater; Donald Fortenberry from First Church, Magee; and Rickey Keith and Robert Vinson from Magee Church of God.



Children play during free time after a Bible school held at Despas, Haiti.

Partnership Missions Celebration

First Baptist Church, Jackson

November 9

Baptist Building, November 10



David Jackson
Church Planter Strategist
Md./Del.



David Michel
MBCB

Celebration banquet
Partnership displays
Testimonies

Fieldside coordinator reports
Fellowship

Mission speakers

Banquet cost: \$10 - Call (601) 292-3398 (Jackson)
or 1-800-748-1651 ext. 398 for reservations

On mission — God at work

...you cannot take
the "go" out of
"on mission."

-Ken Rhodes, director
MBCB Partnership
Missions Department

Elaine and I are the parents of two awesome kids — Chris and Sheri. Also, I may add, we are the grandparents of three fabulous grandchildren — Olivia, Adam, and Jacob. As elementary and junior high students, Chris and Sheri would often break the news of a new girlfriend or boyfriend.

They would say, "I'm going with...." I would always respond, "You are? Where are you going?" I can hear their response as if it were last evening — "Daddy, you know what I mean!"

Fact is, I knew what they meant. I also knew that they were not going at that age with anyone, anywhere. You will be proud to know I did eventually, though reluctantly, allow them to go with a girlfriend or boyfriend (respectively).

I looked at the title of this article "On mission...God at Work" and it gripped my heart. I heard clearly the Father say, "You are? Where are you going?" That kind of question demands an answer.

I have journeyed through believing that being on mission meant being a member of a Southern Baptist church

that contributed to the Cooperative Program and gave sacrificially especially to the Lottie Moon Offering for International Missions. After all, I was the pastor and Lottie happened at Christmas when giving seemed the natural thing to do.

I have celebrated being on mission hearing the missionaries I helped send, tell their stories. How great of them to go and represent me on mission. I wanted to give more. In fact, it seemed all too convenient to help someone else and "buy out" of my personal involvement.

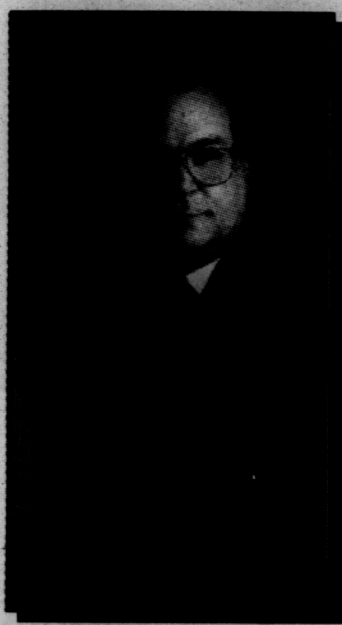
Through the years of personal growth I began to understand that giving ought to be my buying *into* missions. The Father's question, "Where are you going?" means yes, I can and ought to give more, but I must go. The International Mission Board no longer has as its purpose to do missions for Southern Baptists, but rather to lead

Southern Baptists to reach the world.

The goal of Partnership Missions is to mobilize volunteers without which the world will not hear the Good News of Jesus. The answer to the question for most of us involves mobilizing to support specific areas and specific missionaries. Further, the answer involves boosting our efforts for entire global impact.

Certainly being on mission includes an increased support through giving resources, but please note, you cannot take the "go" out of "on mission."

My assignment from the Father at this point is to learn the world and help Mississippi Baptists to be world Christians mobilized to reach all people. This is my passion and, yes, I realize one day the answer to the Father's question could be...



Md./Del. partnership growing

By Paul Harrell, consultant
MBCB Partnership Missions Department

As of today, 49 groups from Mississippi have made the journey to the Baptist Convention of Maryland/Delaware to participate in mission projects. In addition to these, 21 college students have served as summer student missionaries.

Every part of this convention has felt the influence of Mississippi mission volunteers as they presented the Gospel through many different styles and venues. This partnership has generated an energy of excitement that compels mission volunteers to be intentional in their quest to win Mississippi and our world to Jesus.

Mississippi associations and churches have been the recipients of similar blessings as ten groups from Maryland/Delaware came to Mississippi to assist us in sharing the gospel in

our state. Pictured (at left) is Pastor Dennis Felder and 40 volunteers from Dunkirk Church, Dunkirk, Md. who led projects in the Golden Triangle Association on June 23-30.

These mission volunteers came with hearts of compassion to be used by God to make a difference in the spiritual welfare of our people. Many types of ministries were deployed through the leadership of these teams.

We are now preparing for the year 2002. If we are to be consistent and effective in reaching people, more volunteers will be needed next year. God has a place for each of us to invest our lives in mission outreach. Perhaps for many it will be Maryland/Delaware.

A praise and prayer concern bulletin is available from Maryland/Delaware each week. To be placed on the e-mail list contact David Jackson at djackson@bcmid.org.



Pastor Dennis Felder, Dunkirk, Md., ministers in Golden Triangle Association. (Photo by Paul Harrell)

The Last Frontier — North Africa and Middle East

By Clay Moss, consultant
MBCB Partnership Missions Department

God is good, isn't He? More exciting developments are taking place in the Partnership Missions Department as we discover what our Lord is doing in the last frontier.

I was in England in July and had a chance to meet with our International Mission Board's regional leadership in charge of work in North Africa and the Middle East. They are thrilled at the possibility of networking Mississippi churches with Mississippi-connected missionaries in their part of the world.

I will contact some of you in the near future about relationship possibilities, particularly where agricultural opportunities are concerned.

We look forward to continuing to put together prayer walks and missions endeavors next year.

Global Priority Church Conference set for Nov. 8

By Tim Nicholas, staff writer
MBCB Communication Services

The Mississippi Baptist Partnership Missions Department, the International Mission Board (IMB), and mission strategist Rob Sugg from First Church, Jackson, are hosts of a Global Priority Church Conference Nov. 8 at the Baptist Building in Jackson. It will take place from 9:30 a.m.-4 p.m.

Several guests from IMB in Richmond, plus some regional field personnel will be in attendance.

Pastors, ministers of missions, and the missions contact person from each Global Priority Church are invited to attend.

Churches interested in becoming a Global Priority Church are welcome.

In essence, a Global Priority Church is one which prioritizes missions and provides paid or volunteer missions leadership.

A Global Priority Church prays for missions, promotes missions giving, and participates in short-term mission projects. It adopts unreached peoples groups and adopts IMB missionaries.

Register by calling (800) 748-1651, ext. 398 or e-mailing krhodes@mbcb.org by Nov. 5.



"How Great Thou Art" unites two cultures

By Tim Nicholas, staff writer
MBCB Communication Services

At one of the two towns in which a group of Mississippi Baptists led women's conferences in Ukraine, they stood to sing *How Great Thou Art* as a group.

Virginia Bonney of Crystal Springs reported that as the group, nicknamed the Mississippi Sisters, started with "Oh, Lord My God..." immediately as if planned, all the women in the church stood and sang with them in Russian.

"We all felt as if the air had been sucked out of us," said Bonney, personnel clerk for the Mississippi Baptist Convention Board. "I looked down the line at the other ladies in our group. None were singing."

"All were weeping with joy over the Lord's presence in our midst. Despite our differences, we had unity in the Lord," she said.

Others on the team were Rana Burt of

Tupelo; Rebecca Williams of Gautier; Mary Sanders of Clinton; Donna Palmertree of Lame Deer, Montana; and Judy Ford of Louisville.

"That was the song that bonded the women's conference," said Ford.

The Mississippi women were asked about many topics, including women's role in evangelism; how they went about planning their days; and how Sunday School operates in the U.S.

The conferences lasted two days each with about 100 participants in each. One was in Tatarbunari; the other in Bilgorod-Dnistrovskii.

Ukraine "humbled me in a way that when I came home I was reminded that the world is not finished. My service here



Women gather in the House of Prayer, a church in Tatarbunari, for a women's conference led by Mississippi Baptist volunteers. (Photo by Virginia Bonney)



Children play during one of several Bible school, in Ukraine. One local pastor's wife told the volunteers, "This is a young church and these children have never experienced anything like this before." The 17 Mississippians led a series of Bible schools with 1,800 in attendance. (Photo by Ann Stone)

All were weeping with joy over the Lord's presence in our midst. Despite our differences, we had unity in the Lord.

-Virginia Bonney
Personnel Clerk
MBCB



A member of the church at Bilgorod-Dnistrovskii (center) asked Judy Ford (left) and Virginia Bonney to pray for her injured eye. Special prayers were a major part of the day during the women's conferences in Ukraine. (Photo by Donna Palmertree)

Ford remained in Ukraine for another week of Vacation Bible School in Nikolaevka where a home has been renovated into a church.

While preparing for crafts, the pastor brought in a 16-year-old girl who wanted to practice her English on the Americans. Ford gave the girl a Bible story coloring book.

The girl began reading, "In the beginning, God created the heavens and the earth."

Said Ford, "She was astounded we would give her the book. A seed definitely was planted in that girl."

Ford said her experiences in

in my community, state, and elsewhere have been more focused and I owe it all to the mission work in Ukraine through Partnership Missions."

Medley of missions "played" in NE United States

By Ken Lyle, consultant
MBCB Partnership Missions Department

In the summer of 2001, more than 40 mission teams from Mississippi Baptist churches and associations shared the Good News of Christ with people who live in the Northeastern United States.

From the towns and rural communities of our state, followers of Christ formed a medley of ministry which brought help and hope to fellow Baptists in places like Saco, Maine; Sturbridge, Mass.; Ocean City, N.J.; Wilmington, Del.; Washington, D.C.; and Rochester, N.Y.

Space only allows me to share a few "notes" from the medley:

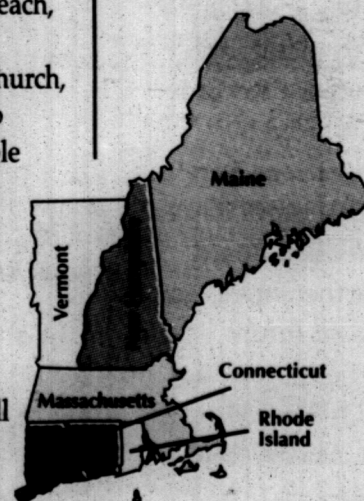
- New Zion Church, Copiah Association, led by Pastor Norris Curry, helped North Park Church, Pittsburgh, Pa., with Vacation Bible School and building repairs.
- Missions directors Wayne Gullett (Calhoun Association) and Lynn Mackey (Wayne Association) led a group of 55 people from their associations to share in a variety of ministries in the churches of Green Mountain Association in Vermont.
- Eric Perkins, youth minister, Harrisburg Church, Tupelo, took a

group of young people to share the Gospel through urban outreach, an inner city ministry in Boston, Mass.

- First Church, Holly Springs (Curtis Ferrell, pastor) and First Church, Rolling Fork (Millard Caulder, pastor) sent groups to assist Bob Tallent, associational missions director in South Jersey with Bible Clubs, construction, and evangelistic outreach.
- Eva Hart, Larry Black, and Dave Westerfield were key leaders for two groups from First, Jackson. Both the youth choir and an intergenerational group laid the foundation for a new church in Newton, Mass.

In addition to these teams, Mississippi Baptists have helped resource church plants in Providence, R.I., and Cicero, N.Y., as well as collegiate ministry in Maine, New York, and Pennsylvania. Through the Margaret Lackey State Mission Offering's volunteer scholarship fund, we have been able to financially assist dozens of Mississippi Baptist volunteer groups on their journey to the Northeast.

Indeed, the medley of missions "played" by Mississippi Baptists in the summer of 2001 brought joy, encouragement, and transformation to believers and unbelievers who live in the Northeast. The choirs of heaven are singing! Praise the Lord!



Volunteers to La Lima, Honduras, share impressions

By Kelly Webb
Carroll-Montgomery Association
Mississippi College student

So now I'm back from a land whose people truly caught my heart. I never expected to be so blessed — to become so attached as I did. God, I praise you for such a time, such a trip, such a team...such an experience. Words can't be found that express how much I feel. Lord, I love you and praise you for being all-knowing and all-encompassing. Forgive me for my moments of self-pity, self-glorification, and selfish desires. Thank you for a people so open, so giving, so loving and so sincere. Never let me forget their names, faces, poverty, passion, and witness. You taught me so much through those I made a small attempt to help.

By George Smith
Associational Missions Director
Carroll-Montgomery Association

I was a pastor more than 30 years before becoming a director of missions, and the greatest change I have ever witnessed is in the lives of team members on volunteer mission trips. Once again I have seen God's power at work through his willing servants. I can hardly wait for the next mission trip!

For the past three years Carroll-Montgomery Association has paid all expenses for all who went on mission trips. All of our resources have been depleted and therefore we may have to make some changes for next year. However, we haven't ruled God out yet!

Honduras

MS Baptists fund new church starts in Maryland and Delaware

Mississippi Baptists are providing start-up funds for each of these new church starts.

1. **New Covenant Community Church, Dentsville, Md.** Church planter — Steve and Brenda Trice. Began in February, 2000, with eight people. Now the church is averaging 25-30.

2. **Horizon Church, Westminster-Owings Mills, Md.** Church planters — David Cowan and Clay Carver. On Sunday morning Aug. 19, a total of 86 people attended and two persons were saved. Horizon had launch Sunday on Sept. 30. A block party was held recently with 635 people registered.

3. **Iron Hill Community Church, Bear, Del.** Church planter — John Willis. Launched on Easter Sunday of this year with 170 in attendance. Youth ministry began in July and now averages 12 weekly.

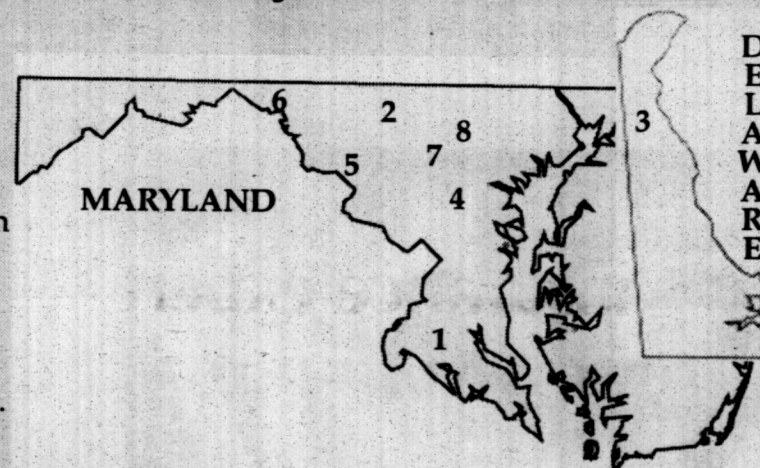
4. **Infinity Church, Beltsville, Md.** Church planter — Aaron Pankey. This is an African-American congregation. There are 16 people now going through leadership development.

5. **North Star Community Church, Monrovia, Md.** Church planter — Kevin and Sandy Marsico. Launched Easter with 164 present. Over the summer they have averaged 115 in attendance. They are meeting in a school building with no air conditioning.

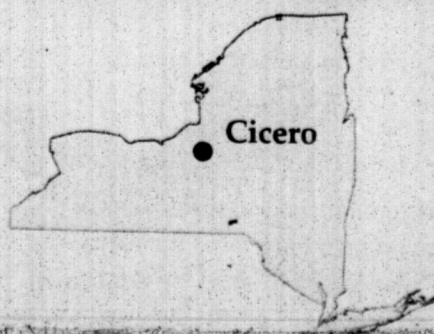
6. **Celebration Church, West Hagerstown, Md.** Church planter — Brian Smith. More than 20 people are meeting on Sunday evenings planning an upcoming launch Sunday.

7. **No name yet, Columbia, Md.** A total of 35 people attended a preview Sunday in July led by Director of Missions, Bill Crowe. More than 6,200 Hispanics live in the area.

8. **No name yet, Owings Mills, Md.** Parent church will be Colonial Church and the pastor will be Robert Anderson. Nehemiah Project church planter Gideon Gaitano and wife will be on field in October.



MBCB sponsors new church plant in Cicero, N.Y.



The Mississippi Baptist Convention Board has sponsored a new church plant in Cicero, N.Y. This is a growing church, reaching New Yorkers for Christ.

Pastor and wife Karl and Bonnie Novak have Mississippi connections, having lived in Columbus. Recently, on a Sunday in August in the middle of summer slump, Novak reported an attendance of 38 in worship with five first time visitors. One was baptized and one profession of faith was made.

The Novaks ask Mississippi Baptists to pray for their 24-year-old son, Jason, who has received a preliminary diagnosis of Crohn's disease.

Pray also for the Cicero church. This will be a high impact church for New York.

Mississippi Baptist Partnership Missions is a supplement to **The Baptist Record** produced by Communications Services of the Mississippi Baptist Convention Board. Contact Partnership Missions about future mission opportunities. P.O. Box 530 Jackson, MS 39205-0530 (800) 748-1651, ext. 398 (601) 292-3398 krhodes@mbcb.org



JUST FOR THE RECORD

Cambridge Church, Gautier, will host its 4th annual fall festival, Oct. 20, from 2-5 p.m. For further information, call the church at (228) 497-1329, or Dimmie Cunningham at 497-3805.

Easthaven Church, Brookhaven, will host its annual ladies conference on Oct. 19 and 20. Friday night services begin at 7 p.m. Saturday services will be from 9 a.m.-3 p.m. with a complimentary luncheon served at noon. The conference

is free. To register or for more information, call the church at (601) 833-2597.

Big Level Church, Wiggins, will dedicate its new building on Oct. 28. David Grisham, former pastor, will be the speaker for the 10 a.m. service. Jim Futral, Mississippi Baptist Convention Board, will speak at the 11 a.m. service, followed by dinner and fellowship. Tommy Mitchell, missions director for Gulf Coast Association, will speak at the 2:30 p.m. service.



Groundbreaking services at First Church, Potts Camp

First Church, Potts Camp, held groundbreaking services for a new sanctuary on Sept. 16. Pictured (from left) are Johnny Hale; Doug Smith; Jim Buchanan, pastor; Joe Epting, former pastor; Glen Humphreys; Johnny Stevens; Charles Stone, chairman of deacons; and Billy Bowen.

Judgement House will be presented at First Church, Batesville, Oct. 28-30 and Nov. 1. The times are 6:30-9 p.m. For additional information and reservations for 10 or more, call (662) 563-7655.

Bethel Church, Aberdeen, will celebrate its 125th anniversary, Nov. 4. Services will begin at 10 a.m. and will include dinner at the end of the service. Chris Colburn is pastor.

Victory Church, Mathiston, will dedicate its new sanctuary on Oct. 21. Dedication services will be held at 2 p.m. and open house from 3-4:30 p.m. Don Parish is pastor.

Bethel Church, Aberdeen, will hold a fall festival on Oct. 27. The festival will begin at 5 p.m. Chris Colburn is pastor.



Children of Immanuel Church, Cleveland

Children of Immanuel Church, Cleveland, recently completed 19 shoeboxes for delivery to Operation Christmas Child. Pictured (from left, back row) are Allyn Flemmons, Blake Andrews, Maggie Chancellor, Tammy Gray, and Ethan Chancellor; (front row) Jonathan Moorhead, Taylor Arinder, Conner Chancellor, and Stephen Chancellor.



Women on Mission group of Hillcrest Church, Jackson, recently met with Brian Grafton, summer missionary. Pictured (front row, from left) are Alvena Williams, Diane McCollough, Grafton, and Rachel Gibson; (back row) Kathy Bayles, Jeanette Stringer, Cathy Taylor, Marjorie Downing, Pat Branson, Yvonne Eubanks, Vickie Norris, Nancy Todd, and Cathy Grafton, Brian's mother.

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1. Lord, I admit that I need you.
(I have sinned.)
2. I want forgiveness for my sins and freedom from eternal death.
(I repent.)
3. I believe Jesus died and rose from the grave to forgive my sins and to restore my relationship with you.
(I believe in Jesus.)
4. By faith, I invite Jesus Christ into my life. From this time on, I want to live in a loving relationship with him.
(I receive Christ as my Savior and Lord.)

But as many as received him, to them he gave the right to become children of God, even to those who believe in his name (John 1:12).

If you make a decision for Jesus Christ today, contact a local Baptist church for spiritual guidance.



MC Student Government Association officers

Student Government Association officers elected by the Mississippi College student body to serve during the 2001-2002 school year are William Lowe Waller III of Jackson, president; Matt Treadway of Clinton, vice-president; John Grissom of Brookhaven, chief justice; Clifton Travis Lee of Ruston, La., secretary; Jonathan Bradshaw of Flowood, treasurer; David Ash of Raymond, chief of staff; Mary Pritchett of Columbus, women's affairs board chairman; Drew Dabbs of Meridian, men's affairs board chairman; and Priscilla Pulliam of Clinton, campus activities board chairman. Pictured (from left, first row) are Pritchett, Waller, Treadway, Pulliam; (second row) Dabbs, Bradshaw, Grissom, Lee, and Ash.

Mississippi College (MC) has made the top ten in its category in Great Schools at Great Prices published in the latest issue of U.S. News & World Report. Along with Mississippi University for Women, MC was ranked in the best values listing of southern universities providing a full range of undergraduate and master's level programs. According to U.S. News, "We publish the ranks of

the top schools; the others are grouped in tiers." MC was ranked 31st in Best Universities - Masters, in the southern region. The top tier schools ratings can be found in the magazine. More information and the listings of other schools can be accessed at www.usnews.com or in America's Best Colleges, available on newsstands.

Mississippi College (MC) is pleased to announce that the Steve Glaze art exhibit has been held over and will continue through Oct. 27 in the Samuel Marshall Gore Art Gallery in Aven Hall on the MC campus. The MC art professor's exhibit, Coming Home, consists of several paintings and sculptures, many interacting as dioramas. This unique and beautifully touching show combines painting and sculpture to form a flowing unit of artistry depicting the theme, Coming Home, throughout the exhibit. Yet each piece can stand alone as an inspired work of art. Glaze's model for the Fallen Firefighters' Memorial in Jackson is the centerpiece of the exhibit. The exhibit may be viewed Mon.-Fri. from 8 a.m. to 2 p.m. For further information call (601) 925-3231.

Deborah Trott Pierce, professor of foreign language at Mississippi College (MC), has been named the Distinguished Lecturer in Arts & Sciences for 2001. Lloyd Roberts, interim president, named her the Humanities Professor of the Year. The lecture will be held Oct. 11 at 7 p.m. in Provine Chapel. A reception will follow the lecture in the Courtyard of

Jennings Hall. Pierce grew up in Brazil, the daughter of missionaries. She is a graduate of MC and has taught at MC since 1979.

William Carey College Baptist Student Union (BSU)

and the School of Arts, Humanities, and Sciences will host a forum entitled After September 11: Perspectives from Carey Faculty and Students, Tues., Oct. 16 at 11:45 a.m. in the Student Conference Center. Held in conjunction with the BSU weekly Priority Lunch, the forum will discuss current events in the aftermath of attacks in New York and Washington D.C. Topics will include financial and literary responses to terrorism, bio-terrorism, and the Arab-Israeli conflict. Speakers include Bennie Crockett of the department of philosophy; Daniel Browning of the Cooper School of Missions and Biblical Studies; David Channell of the school of business; Iris Easterling of the department of language and literature; and Randall Harris of the department of biological sciences. For more information call the BSU at (601) 582-6161.



William Carey College (WCC) theatre students Eve McMichael of Morgantown, Clint Thompson of Columbia, and Jonathan Hill of Southaven, are pictured here in a scene from the WCC production of A Different Drummer, which will be presented Oct. 11-13 at 8 p.m. in the O. L. Quave Theatre. For information and reservations call the box office at (601) 582-6221. The box office is open from 1 p.m. until 4 p.m. Mon.-Sat.

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PARKVIEW BAPTIST CHURCH in Alexandria, Louisiana, is seeking a full-time pastor. Please send resume and reference to: 2101 MacArthur Drive, Alexandria, LA 71301.

BOMB AFGHANISTAN

Editor:

Conflict doesn't begin when you strike me, but if I hit back. Today I also hear we are engaged in a "new type of war."

If so, let us fight that war to win. Bomb Afghanistan with bedding against a bitter winter, with cloth and clothing similar to their old garments. Bomb Afghanistan with soap, solar cookers, small generators, water purifiers, and lamps against the dark. Bomb Afghanistan with baby garments, balls, dark-eyed dolls, and similar toys. Bomb Afghanistan with parcels of medical supplies, and instructions in their language for the few literate citizens. Bomb Afghanistan with crates of high-quality live sheep, goats, rabbits, and chickens. Bomb Afghanistan with stout tents against winter's blasts.

Osama bin Laden is not locatable? Carpet bomb Afghanistan appropriately. He and his tentacles will be found.

Louise Shannon
Chico, Calif.

YES, IT'S DISTURBING

Editor:

I would like to answer Haskel Stringer in the Sept. 20 edition. Yes, it is very disturbing and so many questions to which we don't have answers but God knows all about it.

Two things we should keep in mind: One, our Baptist [denomi-

nation] isn't like it used to be when we depended on God for our answers — when we felt the spirit moving through our church activities. Two, most of this goes back to 1987 when a facade of religious rhetoric revealed how Paul Pressler and a small group of men organized a "strategy" for the "capture" and "takeover" of the Southern Baptist Convention. Paige Patterson was a member of the group. We know it is history how they have destroyed our seminaries one by one and each year tear down another part of the Lord's work as we knew it in older times.

I think part of their present work is removing "Baptist" from all the work. Sunday School teachers in our church have been asked to sign a statement that we will teach according to this doctrine.

Yes, it is "dirty laundry" but these are the facts and each will

get a reward according to our labors.

Lou Carroll
Gulfport

SPECIAL THANKS

Editor:

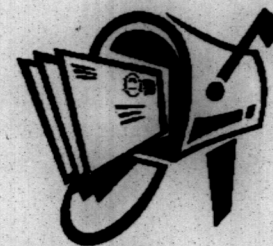
A very special thanks is in line for the churches of Copiah Association in allowing myself, Johnny Beavers, Pat Bufkin, and Pat's wife Shirley to travel to Baltimore Association of Baltimore, Md., to evaluate the possibility of a partnership between Copiah and Baltimore Associations. The possibilities of shared ministries between these two associations are unlimited, as a great rural association (Copiah) teams with a great metropolitan association (Baltimore).

Several churches in our association have already joined with other Baltimore Baptists and we thank you for that, but there are

plenty of other chances for others in our association to assume partnership with others for this great endeavor. We ask that you pray for God's leadership and give our association office a call if your church is inclined to help. It would be a great opportunity for your church to "do" a mega-city ministry in one of the nation's oldest cities and also enjoy a glorious day or so in our nation's capital as free day adventures!

A special word of thanks needs to be extended to John Draper and company from Baltimore Association and to Pilgrim's Rest Church in Crystal Springs, for assisting our mission team in returning to Copiah County from Baltimore on the day of the (terrorist) events in the Washington, D.C., and New York City areas.

David A. Crowe, pastor
Strong Hope Church
Wesson



LETTERS TO THE EDITOR

Unsigned letters will not be printed. No multi-copy or form letters will be used.

Each correspondent must include an address and telephone number for verification. In special instances, name may be withheld at writer's request and editor's discretion.

Please include the name of cooperating Mississippi Baptist church where correspondent is a member. (Mississippi Baptists' letters will receive priority when space is limited.)

Letters must be limited to 250 words. All correspondence is subject to editing.

Correspondents should refrain from personal attacks. The opinions expressed in letters to the editor do not necessarily reflect the views of the Mississippi Baptist Convention Board.

No more than one letter from any individual will be printed during a three-month period.

When in the judgement of the editor a given issue has received sufficient attention, correspondence dealing with it will no longer be published and a notice will be printed to that effect.

STAFF CHANGES

Charles (Tony) Morrow has been called to Holly Church, Corinth, as pastor, effective Aug. 26. A native of Alabama, Morrow received his education at Blue Mountain College, University of North Alabama, and New Orleans Seminary.

Sammy J. McDonald has been called as the first pastor of Victory Church, Richland. He previously served at Lighthouse Church, Rankin

Association. McDonald is a graduate of Mississippi College, New Orleans Seminary, and Evangel Christian University. Victory Church was started on Sept. 9 with 26 charter members.

David Douglas, a student at William Carey College, has been called as part-time youth director at Piave Church, Richton. James T. Dunnam is interim pastor at Piave Church.

First Church, Senatobia, has called Brent Bozeman as pastor, effective Aug. 5. Bozeman received his education at Mississippi College and New Orleans Seminary. He previously served as pastor of Union Church, Brandon.

Highland Church, Crystal Springs, has called David L. Patterson as pastor, effective Sept. 17. Patterson, a native of Crystal Springs, is currently attending New Orleans Seminary. His previous place of service was Damascus Church, Hazlehurst.

Roy Daughdrill serves as organist at First Church, Brookhaven. Daughdrill, retired mathematics and computer science chair at Copiah-Lincoln Community College, formerly served as organist at First Church, Hazlehurst, for 30 years.

Ridgeway Church, Vicksburg, has called Clyde Pullen, as pastor, effective April 15. His previous place of service was Wiggins Church, Carthage. Pullen received his education at Hinds Junior College, Mississippi College, and New Orleans Seminary.

Sunrise Church, Petal, has called Cecil Hathorn as pastor. He previously served at Harrisville Church, Harrisville.

Jason Wade has been called as the associate pastor/students and activities at Monticello Church, Monticello, effective Aug. 8. He is presently a student at New Orleans Seminary. He previously served as youth minister at Heritage Heights, Laurel.

HOMEcomings

Holly Springs, Foxworth: Oct. 14; Sunday School, 10 a.m.; worship, 11 a.m. followed by dinner on the grounds and afternoon singing; Varion Stogner, former pastor, guest speaker.

Mt. Vernon, Newton: Oct. 21; worship, 11 a.m.; covered dish lunch; 1:30 p.m. singing; Jerry Guess, former pastor,

speaker; Merrill Cassel, music; Steve Pouncey, pastor.

Chunky, Chunky: Oct. 21; Sunday School, 9:45 a.m.; worship, 11 a.m.; lunch in family life building; afternoon program will feature the Rowzees and the Lockey Sisters; Carless Evans, author of All About Heaven and The Joy of Christian Living, guest speaker; Wayne Campbell, pastor.

Bellehaven, Ocean Springs: Oct. 21; 11 a.m., worship; Larry Tapp, guest speaker; covered dish lunch; William R. Wyser, pastor.

Central, McNeill: Oct. 28; 11 a.m. service; dinner on the grounds after morning worship; Clark Stewart, former pastor, guest speaker; Shallow Creek singing at 1:30 p.m.; Billy Galloway, pastor.

Gooden Lake, Belzoni: Oct. 21; worship, 11 a.m.; 1:15 p.m., singing by One Voice featuring the Reel family; Jimmy McLendon, guest speaker; Bob Gilliland, pastor.

Stonewall (Simpson): 125th anniversary; Oct. 14; worship service, 10:30 a.m.; dinner on the grounds; Roger Lee, guest speaker; Bobby Jones, pastor.

New Hope, Monticello: Oct. 14; Sunday School, 10 a.m.; worship, 11 a.m.; noon meal; 1:30 p.m. concert; New Life, Purvis, guest singers; Cliff Amos, Knoxville, Tenn., guest speaker.

North Calvary, Philadelphia: Oct. 14; Sunday School, 9:45 a.m.; worship, 11 a.m. Stanley Barnett, former pastor, guest speaker; lunch in fellowship hall following morning service; Lawrence Runnels, interim pastor.

Scotland, Winona: Oct. 14; 10:30 a.m.; lunch in fellowship hall at 11:30 a.m.; singing, 1 p.m.; Revelation Quartet, Memphis, Tenn., guest singers; Gregg Woodard, pastor.

Dry Creek (Rankin): Oct. 14; 11 a.m.; dinner followed by afternoon singing with the Dear Family; Willie Caten, pastor.

Sandersville (Jones): Oct. 21; Sunday School, 9:45 a.m.; worship, 11 a.m.; noon meal; singing, 1:30 p.m.; Max Ray Parker, Laurel, guest speaker; Tony Gordy, Lawrenceburg, Tenn., guest singer; Donnie V. Parker, pastor.

FBC RICHLAND IS SEEKING a pianist. Please call (601) 939-1715 for more information.

FBC PLANTERSVILLE IS SEEKING a youth minister. Send resume to FBC, P.O. Box 487, Plantersville, MS 38862; or fax to (662) 842-3632.

EPHESUS BAPTIST CHURCH, Forest Miss., is seeking a minister of praise and a pianist with training in music. Married couple is preferred. This is a part-time position requiring approx. 20 hrs. a week. Annual salary is \$14,300. Send resume to Jim Everett, 3495 Ephesus Road, Forest, MS 39074; or call (601) 469-1731.

SEEKING FULL-TIME MINISTER OF MUSIC/YOUTH. Contact Woodland Baptist Church, 3033 Ridge Road, Columbus, MS 39705. Telephone: (662) 327-6689.

CHURCH AVERAGING 100 in Sunday School seeks full-time associate pastor/minister of music and youth. Please send resume to Calvary Baptist Church, 2878 Old Hwy. 27, Vicksburg, MS 39180; or fax to (601) 636-7574.

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MISSISSIPPI BAPTIST CONVENTION

OCTOBER 30-31, 2001 • FIRST CHURCH, JACKSON

October 30, 2001

Tuesday Morning

First Session

"Redeemed By Grace"

8:25	Prelude	Organist/Pianist, FBC, Jackson
8:30	Sounding of the Gavel	Kermit McGregor
8:35	Congregational/Instrumental Praise	George Puckett
8:50	Scripture Reading	Trung Tran
	Ephesians 2:8-10	
	Prayer	Wilson Ramsey
9:00	Organization of the Convention	
	Recognition and Seating of Messengers	Kermit McGregor
	Recognition of Special Guests & Correspondence	Kermit McGregor
	Report of Committee on Order of Business	Clarence Cooper
	Recognition of Tellers and Credentials Committee	Kermit McGregor
	Welcome	Frank Pollard
9:10	Bible Treasure	Richard Jackson
9:30	Report of Committee on Committees	Carl White
9:35	Presentation of Resolutions	Kermit McGregor
9:45	Convention Board Report	Wayne VanHorn
9:55	Congregational/Choral Praise	George Puckett
10:00	Election of President	Kermit McGregor
10:30	Christian Action Commission Report	Jimmy Porter
10:40	Choral Praise	Sanctuary Choir, FBC, Mendenhall
10:45	Testimony	Frank Pollard
11:00	Praise and Worship Sanctuary Choir, FBC, Mendenhall	
11:05	President's Address	Kermit McGregor
	2 Corinthians 12:7-10	
11:35	Benediction	Butch Knight

October 30, 2001

Tuesday Afternoon

Second Session

"Renewed By Grace"

1:30	Congregational Praise	Billy Bob Dempsey
1:35	Sounding of the Gavel	William P. Smith, III
	Congregational Praise	Billy Bob Dempsey
	Scripture Reading	Calvin Gibson
	Romans 12:1-8	
	Prayer	Warren Jones
1:45	Testimony	Larry Otis
2:00	Results of Election of President	William P. Smith, III
	(Followed by second ballot if needed)	
2:05	Choral Praise	Southside BC and Morrison Heights BC Sanctuary Choirs
2:10	Convention Sermon	Jeffrey Parker
2:40	Business Session	Kermit McGregor
	Presentation of 2002 Budget	Bobby Kirk
	Election of Convention Officers	Kermit McGregor
	Presentation of Resolutions	
	Miscellaneous Business	Kermit McGregor
3:10	Choral Praise	One Voice
3:15	Baptist Children's Village Report	Ronny Robinson
3:25	Business Session	Kermit McGregor
	Election of Convention Officers	
	Report of Constitution and Bylaws Committee	
	Miscellaneous Business	
4:00	Congregational Praise	Billy Bob Dempsey
4:05	Report of Board of Ministerial Education	Steve Wilson
4:10	Choral Praise	One Voice
4:15	Bible Treasure	Richard Jackson
4:35	Benediction	Tim Jordan

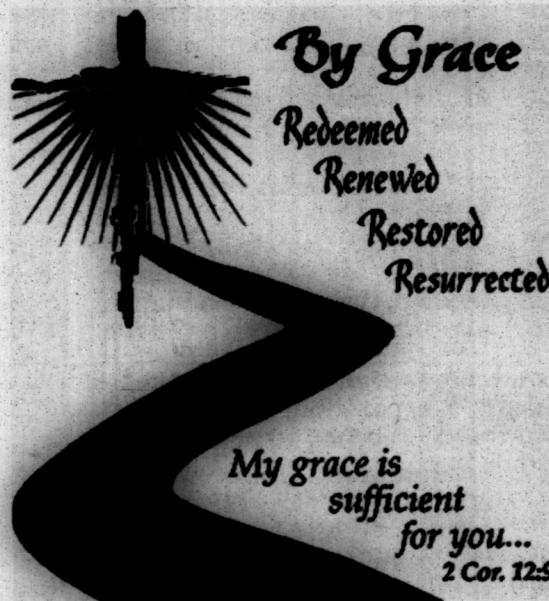
October 30, 2001

Tuesday Evening

Third Session

"Restored By Grace"

6:30	Instrumental/Choral Worship	Mississippi Singing Churchmen
6:40	Sounding of the Gavel	Kermit McGregor
	Congregational Praise	Graham Smith
	Scripture Reading	Geewei Lee
	Psalm 51:1-12	
	Prayer	Randy Belk
6:50	Choral Praise	Mississippi Singing Churchmen
6:55	Testimony	Rod Barnes
7:10	Final Presentation of Resolutions	Kermit McGregor
7:15	Bible Treasure	Richard Jackson
7:35	Recognition of Guests, New Workers, and Missionaries	Jim Futral
7:50	Congregational Praise	Graham Smith
7:55	Special Music	Mississippi Singing Churchmen
8:00	Mississippi Baptist Convention Board Emphasis	Jim Futral
9:00	Benediction	Rob Futral



October 31, 2001

Wednesday Morning

Fourth Session

"Resurrected By Grace"

8:25	Choral Praise	Carpenter's Wood, William Carey College
8:35	Sounding of the Gavel	Dale Holloway
8:40	Congregational Praise	David Prevost
	Scripture Reading:	Jose Lopez
	1 Corinthians 15: 9-12, 20-26, 55-57	
	Prayer	Paul Strahan
8:50	Bible Treasure	Richard Jackson
9:10	Report of Christian Education	Lamar McDonald
9:15	Memorial Service	Frank Harmon
9:25	Choral Praise	Ladies Ensemble, William Carey College
9:30	Introduction of College Presidents	Kermit McGregor
	William Carey College Report	Larry W. Kennedy
9:40	Testimony	Christy May
9:50	Business Session	Kermit McGregor
10:05	Adoption of 2002 Budget	Bobby Kirk
	Report of Committee on Nominations	William Stewart
	Time, Place, and Preacher Committee Report	Jay Richardson
	Resolutions Committee Report	Robert Upchurch
	Miscellaneous Business	
10:50	Congregational Praise	David Prevost
10:55	Partnership Missions	Ken Rhodes
11:10	Choral Praise	Carpenter's Wood, William Carey College
11:15	Message	Charles Lowery
11:45	Benediction	Danny Chisholm

MISSISSIPPI BAPTIST CONVENTION OFFICERS

President	Kermit McGregor, Mendenhall
First Vice President	William P. Smith, III, Tupelo
Second Vice President	Dale Holloway, Florence
Recording Secretary	Bob Smith, Newton
Assoc. Relations Secretary	William W. White, Olive Branch

FAMILY BIBLE STUDY

The B-I-B-L-E

Acts 6:1-5; 2 Timothy 3:14-17

By Wayne Marshall

Music often tells a story in its lyrics. For example, the "Bible School" song during the pledge to the Bible always reflects the importance of God's Word. Children used to sing, "The B-I-B-L-E, yes that's the book for me."

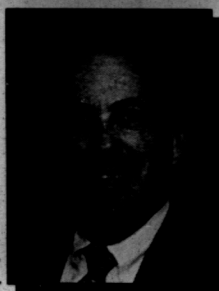
Our Baptist hymnal holds forth the centrality of God's Word in "How firm a foundation, ye saints of the Lord, Is laid for your faith in His excellent Word." Today's contemporary worship is often filled with Scripture songs reflecting the glory of God.

In all of these ways man expresses his love for God's Word and his dependence

upon its guidance. Our lesson today illustrates that truth.

The Word of God, though often belittled by a secular society, has been the guidance for the home and family for thousands of years. It has brought and continues to bring intellectual, spiritual, and moral strength to its readers. Looking at the godly heritage of Scripture always proves beneficial to the heart and the home.

A family tradition (Acts 6:1-5). This text reflects the value of Bible study in the home. We are told that the mother, Eunice, had the sole responsibility of sharing spiritual truth in her home.



Marshall

She responded well for Timothy had been taught well enough to be spoken of as one who was "well thought of." His background according to 2 Timothy 1:5-6, was such that he had learned the Scripture enough to have an attitude and activity of faith.

The words of Scripture had produced a realistic, sincere faith in Timothy. It is to be naturally assumed by the mention of both mother and grandmother that Timothy's family had a productive, positive walk with God that was grounded in Scripture.

A fruitful tradition (2 Timothy 3:14-17). The Word of God works for the believer and the home in several ways. First, as it manifests itself it proves fruitful in training. Verse 14 suggests that Timothy "continue" illustrating that this study already begun.

The apostle Paul's admonition reflects both exegesis of the Word through hearing it and example of the Word through seeing it in others. Timothy had obviously done both.

Another aspect of the Word made alive in the home would be in verse 15 as Paul shows the mission of the Word. It will make you "wise." That word means to be cunningly devised.

In today's society with its systems, schemes, and schisms, one must know truth and the Word presents truth. It shows us the priority of teaching our families the Word above all else and before all else. Yet Biblical teaching in our homes is often seriously lacking due to fatigue, time pressure, and priorities.

A final thought on the life of the Word in our families and our society is reflected in verse 16. Here is found a well-rounded spectrum of use for God's Word. Someone shared it like this: "It guards our first steps through instructions, our false

steps through reproof, our faltering steps through correction, and our forward steps through righteous character." Every parent and every home should easily see the priority of the Word.

A faithful tradition (2 Timothy 4:1-5). Paul strongly urged Timothy to "preach the Word." That statement can be defined in three distinct phases. First, make it a proclamation for everyone to hear. Second, make it a priority. "The" is a definite article defining what word. Finally, make it a matter of presentation. It is the Word (God-breathed Logos) that is to be grasped, guarded, and given to others as the only real instructional book.

The Latin phrase "*et tu quoque*" puts this matter in its proper perspective. "And what about you?" this phrase asks with conviction. How will you accept and project the Word of God in your heart and home?

Marshall is pastor of Longview Heights Church in Olive Branch.

EXPLORE THE BIBLE

Hope in the midst of grief

1 Thessalonians 4:13-18

By Dell Scoper

In the face of death the pagan world stood in despair. On their tombstones, grim epitaphs were carved: "I was not; I became; I am not; I care not." Aeschylus stated, "Once a man dies there is no resurrection."

On the other hand, fundamental tenets of the Christian faith are belief in the bodily Resurrection of Christ, his Second Coming, and eternal life lived in his presence with fellow believers.

There are 318 New Testament eschatological (study of last things) references concerning the Parousia, a word used in relation to the visit of royalty, meaning "presence" or "appearing," all of which teach us that Jesus' return will be personal, sudden, orderly, and visible to all mankind.

We know that the

Thessalonian Christians had not the slightest doubt as to Jesus' promise to return, because earlier in this epistle Paul had described them as those "who...wait for his Son from heaven" (1:10).

Evidently there were other related questions brought to light in Timothy's report to Paul from the Thessalonian church-penetrating questions such as, "Will those who are alive when the Lord returns have an advantage over those who have already died? Will the latter share in the glory of that great event, the consummation of history? What was the destiny of those Christians who had already fallen asleep in death?"

This lesson is Paul's response to their concerns about fellow believers who had already died.



Scoper

Hope based on God's plan (vv. 13-14). Paul acknowledges the seriousness of the subject in his opening phrase, "We would not have you ignorant." He did not want his friends to "grieve as others who have no hope," in the grief of despair.

Indeed, believers will be touched with the normal sorrow stemming from death's separation, but reinforced by God's promise of a joyful reunion with fellow believers who will be with Jesus at his return. Sleep, used as a common metaphor for death then and now, does not support the erroneous idea of soul sleep (5:10; 2 Cor. 5:1-8; Phil. 1:23).

Death for Paul did not mean a state of unconscious repose, but a condition of being with Christ. Paul viewed "those who sleep" as continuing their relationship with Christ in heaven while their bodies lay in the grave.

Hope based on assurance (vv. 15-16). The authority that validates Paul's affirmation is "the Lord's own word." The

Second Coming will be an orderly process. The dead in Christ will rise first, then "we who are still alive."

Without stating that Christ would come during his lifetime, Paul hoped to be alive when he returned. However, the most significant fact about the Parousia centers in the activity of the Lord himself, who descends from heaven with a call of command like that of an officer to his soldiers, to awaken those who have fallen asleep, with a voice of an archangel, probably Michael (Jude 9), and a blast (1 Cor. 15:52). These three noises convey the Lord's majestic authority in his instant gathering of all believers to share with him the splendor of this event.

Hope based on eternal reunion (vv. 17-18). Paul gave us a picture of the Rapture (caught up) as we meet the Lord in the air. Meet is a Greek noun, a technical term for the public welcome accorded to important visitors by a city.

Could Paul have been thinking about Christians giving Jesus a public welcome when he returns as the exalted Lord?

It is not Paul's intent here to deal with the Rapture, Tribulation, Judgement, and the Millennium.

The fact that Christians will "forever be with the Lord" is the heart of the passage-endless fellowship with Christ. Paul's emphasis was on the encouragement the Thessalonian Christians were to give one another "with these words" (vv. 13-17).

Paul's teaching that the Second Coming of Christ will be a cosmic event in human history is as valid for the twenty-first century as it was for the first. Just as the fact that God sent his son "in the fullness of time" marked the first Advent, the Second Coming will herald the Second Advent.

History is moving toward its appointment with God. Jesus will return! The comfort comes in this great legacy from Paul, teaching us to live faithfully and obediently now, wide awake to the responsibilities of the present while anticipating the inexpressible joy of our glad reunion with him at that appointed moment in time.

Scoper is a member of First Church, Laurel.

Guidelines for submitting news and photographs

The Baptist Record is pleased to publish news and photographs of special events that take place in cooperating churches of the Mississippi Baptist Convention.

News submitted for publication in The Baptist Record must be either (a) typewritten, (b) neatly printed on 8 1/2 by 11-inch paper, or (c) neatly printed on standardized forms provided by the newspaper. All articles must be received in writing; no articles will be accepted over the telephone.

News may be submitted electronically to the address below, and must be contained in the message segment of an e-mail form. Due to increasing virus threats,

no text attachments will be accepted. Photograph attachments are permissible.

Please make articles concise. Include the who, what, when, where details of the story, along with a contact person's address and telephone number.

Photographs may be color or black and white. Instant photos and digital printouts are not reproducible. Digital photos may be used if submitted as a .JPG file via either (a) e-mail, (b) three-and-a-half-inch floppy disk, or (c) CD. Photos must be clear, sharp, and well-lighted.

All news items are subject to editing, and all photographs are subject to cropping. News items and/or photographs can be published one time only. Deadline for submitting news is one week prior to requested publication date.

Articles that are not date-sensitive will be published on a space-available basis. Requests to return photographs must be accompanied by a self-addressed, stamped envelope.

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BP holds first student journalism conference

NASHVILLE, Tenn. (BP) — Christian journalists "have a real advantage" in mass media professions because "we don't have to get bogged down with 'Why?'" Colleen Rudy told students and veteran journalists during the inaugural Baptist Press (BP) Student Journalism Conference.

vide biblical insight so you'll be ready to answer 'Why?'" A former news anchor for KFMB, the CBS television affiliate in San Diego, Rudy said "the spiritual perspective" will keep a Christian journalist centered and focused.

Rudy was one of 24 veterans in the mass communication field who addressed the Sept. 27-29 conference at the Southern Baptist Convention (SBC) Building in Nashville.

Concerning on-the-job evangelism, Rudy said, "Take opportunities in subtle ways to give glory to God." For instance, a Christian journalist "shouldn't dwell on the calamity."

Christian journalists "have a duty to be armed with God's Word," Rudy said, and to remember that God is at work as

Christian journalists ply their skills in secular situations.

"Be moved to action," she said, "and when God gives you the opportunity to share your faith, take the opportunity."

In a "breaking news" situation, TV reporters "can really shine," said Rudy, who provided live coverage on the Santana High School shooting and the Heaven's Gate cult deaths.

During TV news coverage, "you have the opportunity to

get the facts out to people." She said she enjoys being in a position to reassure people and sees it as "an incredible responsibility and honor."

A nother keynote speaker, Terry Mattingly, emphasized a theme repeated not only by other keynote speakers but also by workshop leaders: "Accuracy!"

In describing how a Christian journalist works in a secular environment, he said

good journalism practices provide common ground, so that other journalists can see "our commitment to the craft" of journalism.

"Accuracy is about as neutral a standard as we can get" when quality is being judged, said Mattingly, a nationally syndicated religion columnist for Scripps Howard and associate professor at Palm Beach Atlantic College.

Therefore, "get the facts down right," he said. In the ideal situation, Mattingly said he hopes for Christian journalists to be judged on their skills, on "the quality of journalism," not on their beliefs.

"We worship a God who builds and runs universes for a living," Mattingly said, quoting one of the founders of the Summer Institute of Journalism.

"He didn't retire and go into fulltime Christian ministry. God is the God of ink and journalism," he said.

Speaking directly to the students, Mattingly challenged them as Christian journalists to "take your place in God's creation."

Will Norton, keynote speaker during the final plenary session, said, "The Lord throughout history has spoken through skilled communicators."

Norton, dean of the school of journalism and mass communication at the University of Nebraska in Lincoln and former chair of the department of journalism at the University of Mississippi in Oxford, mentioned Isaiah, whose pithy "Here am I, send me," echoes even today in the voices and lives of those God has called.

He spoke of the first 11 chapters of Genesis, which gives a summary of the entire Bible's message — God created a paradise, man ruined it — and God in his unconditional love promised to restore it.

"Christ in you is the foundation for who you are and what you will become. The question is whether you're committed enough to what the resurrected Christ asks you to do," Norton pointed out.



STUDENT JOURNALISTS — Students attending the inaugural Baptist Press Student Journalism Conference posed for a group photograph in front of the Southern Baptist Convention Building in downtown Nashville. (BP photo by Gibbs Frazier)

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PGKVJGT DA VJG DNQQF
QH IQCVU CPF ECNXGU,
DWV DA JKU QYP
DNQQF JG GPVGTGF KP
QPEG KPVQ VJG JQNA
RNCEG, JCKPI QDVCKPGF
GVGTPCN TGFGORVKQP
HQT WU.

JGDTGYU PKPG: VYGNXG

Clue: K = I

Have fun with cryptography and exercise your Bible knowledge. A King James Version Bible verse has been encoded by letter substitution. The same letter is substituted throughout the puzzle. Solve by trial and error. Answer to last week's puzzle: Psalm Forty-Three: Five.

Barnes: News media need Christian worldview

NASHVILLE, Tenn. (BP) — Young Christians are needed in the mainstream media to counter the liberal and intensely secular views of most journalists, said Fred Barnes, executive editor of The Weekly Standard and host of "The Beltway Boys" on the Fox News Channel.

Barnes, a well-known Washington writer and Fox News commentator, delivered a stinging rebuke of the media during the keynote address at the Baptist Press Excellence in Journalism banquet Sept. 29 at Belmont University in Nashville.

"The mainstream media loathe a display of patriotism and an expression of faith, particularly the Christian faith," he said. That's why you see so little of it among the media.

"There have been polls that have showed that over the last 20 years the media are intensely secular and socially very liberal," Barnes said to a crowd of more than 160 student journalists and guests.

"I would add that the Washington press corps are arrogant, disrespectful, and exuding the notion they are better and smarter than the rest of us," he said.

Citing a poll by Orlando editorial writer Peter Brown, Barnes told the audience that the media's liberal bias isn't isolated.

"It wasn't just in the East," he said. "It was all over the country. They insist on a kind of political correctness that sometimes reaches really laughable extremes."

Barnes illustrated his point by explaining CNN's decision not to use the word "terror-

ist" to describe the 19 men who hijacked airplanes on Sept. 11 and rammed them into the World Trade Center, the Pentagon and a field in western Pennsylvania.

"A CNN spokesperson said they would call them alleged hijackers because they have not been convicted in a court of law," Barnes said.



BARNES VISITS CONFERENCE — Political commentator Fred Barnes (right) speaks with Pam Parry, a journalism faculty member at Belmont University in Nashville, prior to his address to student journalists. (BP photo by Morris Abernathy)

"I don't think they are going to be since they are all dead, but we can't call them terrorists. At ABC, they banned the wearing of [American flag pins] because ABC said it would be divisive and it would show that their reporters are endorsing a cause."

"My thought was that it was not endorsing a cause, it was supporting your country. You are needed in the media," Barnes told the young journalists.

"Christians are needed in the mainstream media not because there are great evangelistic opportunities — there obviously are, but that's not the real reason."

"The real reason is that you need to bring to the television networks, the news channels, the wire services, and the major newspapers all around the country a Christian worldview."

"They need the sense of hope and optimism that most journalists don't have," he said. "Most of them are caught up with seeking to find bad news. We need people who understand the moral dimensions of life, and so many don't."

Barnes also discussed the faith and values of President Bush. "Bush was the least likely guy to be president," Barnes said.

The future president's life 15 years ago was unimpressive. He drank too much until he woke one day with a hangover and said, "Never again."

"It makes you think someone was guiding him the whole time," Barnes said of George W. Bush.